

AMA Guides and California PD:

Managing the AMAs: An Expert Resource for the Users of the AMA Guides

Brought to you by:

Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC) AND
ABIME (American Board of Independent Medical Examiners)
Friday, May 18, 2007 - Hilton, John Wayne International Airport
Monday, May 21, 2007 - Embassy Suites, San Francisco International Airport

Agenda

8:00 - 8:30 Registration

Morning session: AMA Guides at a glance

Presenter: Mohammed Ranavaya, M.D

8:30-9:45 Key concepts and underlying principles of the AMA Guides

9:45-10:00 Questions

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-12:00 Musculoskeletal: Spine, upper & lower extremities, & impairment ratings

12:00-1:00 Lunch break (own your own)

Afternoon session: AMA Guides and its application in California

Presenters and Panelists: Mohammed Ranavaya, M.D., T. Blair Megowan, Jesse Rosen, Esq., Robert G. Rassp, Esq., Moderator: Judge Lachlan Taylor

1:00-2:00 Practical use of the AMA Guides, a nuts and bolt approach including

- Case studies reviewing the AMA guides
 - Causation analysis
 - DRE versus ROM: Which is which and why?
 - Pain: when is it ratable?
 - Sleep and arousal disorders: Problems with its misuse and sometimes abuse in rating
 - Strength problems: How is it inappropriately used in the rating
- 2:00 - 3:15 Expert panel discussion: Challenging Vs upholding the PDRS: The arguments; The case Law; The problems; The future.
- 3:15-3:30 Break
- 3:30-4:00 Apportionment: Getting credit where credit is due
- 4:00-4:30 How to evaluate an impairment rating report based on the AMA guides?
- Is the rating accurate? Too high? Too Low? Strategies for reviewing erroneous PD reports
- A systematic approach to catch the physician's costly mistakes

Great News!

Having credentialed thousands of physicians worldwide, the Board of Directors of the American College of Disability Medicine, in conjunction with ABIME, has created a **"Certification of Proficiency in the AMA Guides"** examination for the non-physician. The workers' compensation professional. Adjusters, claims supervisors, attorneys, and other non-MDs can sit for the certification of Proficiency credentialing exam. The first opportunity to sit for this rigorous exam in California will be made available to attendees at the conclusion of the seminar. This 90-minute, 30-question AMA Guides Certification Exam will be given from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. Examination fee is \$95.00. All persons successfully completing the exam will receive a Certificate of Proficiency in the AMA Guides.

AMA Guides Certification Exam (optional)

5:00-6:30 Certification in the Proficiency of the AMA Guides Exam (Optional)

Expert Panel:

Mohammed Ranavaya, MD, MS, JD (candidate), FFOM, FRCPI, CIME

President, American Board of Independent Medical Examiners.

Dr. Ranavaya, a contributor and member of the senior advisory panel of the AMA Guides (5th) and a section editor and author of the multiple chapters of the (soon-to-be-published 6th editions of the AMA Guides) Co-founded the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners (ABIME) in 1994 to improve the quality of independent medical and impairment examinations worldwide. "It was observed that the nature of medical testimony in various personal injury claims, be it workers' compensation or other personal injury, ran the gamut from being very high quality to very poor... Hence there was a real need for a training program followed by credentialing," notes Dr. Ranavaya. Dr. Ranavaya travels the world to teach the AMA Guides, with audiences including claims professionals, doctors, and lawyers in such locales as the Australia, Europe, Asia Pacific and all over North America. Over 10,000 doctors from across the nation and overseas have now been educated by ABIME in the use of AMA Guides, and 4000 have been credentialed by ABIME as Certified IME Specialists. Dr. Ranavaya's talents were recognized by the State of California when he was contracted to teach AMA Guides to the DEU staff and adjudicators. As a nationally recognized expert in the AMA Guides, Dr. Ranavaya is currently under contract with the State of California to provide AMA Guides-related consultations to the DEU and WCAB.

T. Blair Megowan

A graduate of UCLA in Physical Sciences and Mathematics, Mr. Megowan entered the workers' compensation field in 1975 as a claims examiner for State Compensation Insurance Fund. Five years later, he joined the Rehabilitation Bureau where he worked as a consultant, and later as the Southern California Area Supervisor. In March of 1993, Mr. Megowan was appointed as Manager of the Disability Evaluation Unit for which he has overseen the 1997 and 2004 revisions of the Permanent Disability Rating Schedule. The American Medical Association has invited Mr. Megowan to act as a Reviewer for the 6th edition of the AMA Guides. An acknowledged expert regarding the AMA Guides, Mr. Megowan has taught the Guides to adjusters, human resource directors, employer representatives, attorneys and physicians throughout California.

Lachlan Taylor

Staff Judge, Commission on Health & Safety & Workers' Compensation

Lachlan Taylor is a Workers' Compensation Judge serving on the staff of the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC) since January 1, 2004. Prior to working with the Commission, Judge Taylor served as a trial judge since 1995 at the Sacramento and later at the Oakland offices of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. Previously he was a Senior Staff Counsel at the State Compensation Insurance Fund and in a private workers' compensation practice he represented employers, insurers and public agencies. Mr. Taylor began practicing law representing injured workers in 1975

Robert G. Rassp, Esq.

is a graduate of Loyola Law School class of 1981. He previously earned two undergraduate degrees from the University of California at Irvine in 1978 at age 20. Mr. Rassp has practiced workers' compensation and Social Security disability law since 1981 and is the principal of his own law firm since 1983. He was appointed as a member of the State Bar Workers' Compensation Law Section Executive Committee in April 1998 and became its Chair in 2000-2001. Mr. Rassp is currently a member of the Workers' Compensation Law Section Executive Committee, reappointed in May 2003. Mr. Rassp is the author of 'The Lawyer's Guide to the AMA Guides and California Workers' Compensation published in 2006.

Jesse Rosen, Esq.

Attorney specializing in Workers' Compensation defense since 1980, except while serving as a Workers' Compensation Judge at the WCAB-Los Angeles in the late 1980's. Certified Specialist in Workers' Compensation Law. Practice with major house counsels in Los Angeles in the early 1980's. Private practice with major law firms since 1989, covering Southern California. In practice now with Goldman, Magdalin & Krikes in Southern California.

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*** Check www.abime.org for conference updates***

Embassy Suites, San Francisco Int. Airport, 250 Gateway Blvd., South San Francisco, CA

Monday, May 21, 2007

Hilton, John Wayne Int. Airport, 18800 MacArthur Blvd., Irvine, CA

Friday, May 18, 2007

compensation system will find valuable information at this conference.

and anyone interested in the AMA Guides and its appropriate use in the California workers'

Claims professionals, attorneys, employers, rehabilitation counselors, medical providers

An Expert Resource for the Users of the AMA Guides

AMA Guides and California PD: Managing the AMAs:



American Board of Independent Medical Examiners
1338 3rd Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701
Ph: (304) 523-1415 Fax: (304) 523-1824

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Please note: Payment in full must accompany registration form.

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Cancellations must be in writing to generate a refund. **No Refunds or cancellations after May 10, 2007. No exceptions please.**

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Please designate the conference you will attend.

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